

Extended Benefits Update February 03, 2009

Extended Benefits are available

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development advises that Alaska is again paying Extended Benefits (EB), starting with the week ending January 31, 2008, the beginning of an undetermined period of EB availability. This payment period was enabled by the increase in Alaska's Total Unemployment Rate (TUR) to levels at least 10% higher than either of the prior two years (using running 3-month averages).

If the rates (and the resulting 3-month averages) persist at their present level, Extended Benefits will be available well into the new year of 2009. The law requires that an Extended Benefits period stay "on" for at least 13 weeks once a "trigger on" event has occurred (as measured by the TUR in this case). At this time, there is no projection for a possible end of the current payment of EB.

Claimants who have exhausted their Regular UI accounts (or their EB accounts) may be able to file for and collect benefits under a federal program "Emergency Unemployment Benefits) or EUC-08. The first week of authorized benefits under EUC-08 was the week ending July 12, 2008. In November, congress passed, and the president signed a second tier program for EUC-08, which provides additional weeks of benefits beyond the original EUC program.

At this time, Alaska has the following Unemployment Benefit programs in effect:

Regular UI Benefits

Extended Benefits

EUC-08

EUC-08 Tier 2

Also, State Supplemental Benefits may be available for persons unable to meet the qualifying provisions of extended Benefits.